of quota of edible oil to States for the year 1997-98;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether requests have been received from some States to allocate edible oil for the whole year for public distribution; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (d) Govenmcnt's edible oil import programme for the PDS for 1997-98 has not yet been finalised. The States/UTs have indicated their demand of imported edible oil through the PDS for the current year. Pending imports for the PDS, the State Governments are free to import edible oil according to their requirement in view of uniform duty for both PDS and OGL imports.

Quota of edible oil to Maharashtra

4478. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments have been getting the desired quota of edible oil from Govenment;

(b) if so, the details thereof, specifically with reference to Maharashtra;

(c) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra Government had asked for 55,000 MTs of Palmolein Oil for 1996, whereas it was sanctioned only 29,000 MTs;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to enhance Maharashtra's quota of edible oil, in the above context, alongwith details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (f) Supply of imported palmolein through the Public Distribution System (PDS) is supplemental and is meant to augment open market availability during the lean season/festival period. Unlike other PDS commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, palmolein is not issued on an entitlement basis. Taking into account the fact that most of the edible oils are under the OBL list for import coupled with easy availability of oil in the market and stability of price, Government decided to import a limited quantity of palmolein during the period February to October, 1996. The States were requested to indicate their requirement and allocation was made within the total quantity imported namely 2.02 lakh MTs.

Government of Maharashtra had requested for 56,000 MTs of imported palmolein for the PDS during- the year 1996 against which an allocation of 33,000 MTs was made to the State out of the total imported quantity of palmolein of 2.02 lakh MTs.

The allocation of imported edible oil through PDS is based on various factors like total import for Central Pool, inter-se requirements of States/UTs, past lifting, open market availability and prices. These factors are likely to continue to determine the quota or edible oil released to States/UTs including Maharashtra whenever imports are made in future.

Violation of ISI marks

4479. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases of - violation of ISI marks have been detected